



## Common Mullein

*Verbascum thapsus*



Common mullein	
<b>General</b>	Family: Figwort (Scrophulariaceae) Introduced from Europe Colorado List C - Control recommended
<b>Common names</b>	Wooly mullein
<b>Habitat</b>	Biennial Found in rangeland, pastures, open areas, disturbed sites, roadsides Often one of the first invaders of disturbed sites
PLANT	
<b>Vegetation</b>	Mature plants up to 8 feet tall Leaves oblong, blue-green, hairy, up to 5 inches wide and 15 inches long Leaves get smaller as they grow up the flower stalk
<b>Roots</b>	Taproot and fibrous secondary roots
<b>Flower</b>	June-October. Yellow About 1 inch wide Tightly grouped flowers at the end of a stalk up to 6 feet tall
<b>Seed</b>	Up to 180,000 seeds per plant Seeds last up to 100 years in the soil
<b>Seedling</b>	Rosette. 3-5 feet wide
<b>Reproduction</b>	Seed

CONTROL -- CHEMICAL		
Timing	Herbicide	Notes
Spring or Fall Rosette	Aminocyclopyrachlor + chlorsulfuron (Perspective)	Use of a surfactant is recommended for most herbicides to help increase contact with the vegetation and to facilitate herbicide uptake. Refer to the specific label for the appropriate type of surfactant.
Spring through Early Summer Rosette to Early bolt	Aminopyralid (Milestone) Chlorsulfuron (Telar) Glyphosate (various) Imazapyr (Arsenal) Metsulfuron (Escort) Picloram (Tordon) Restricted Use Triclopyr (Garlon)	Treating at the rosette and early bolt stage stops biennial weeds from using resources that desirable plants need to prosper.  Refer to the individual label for allowed sites, specific timing, and restrictions about grazing and haying.  Formulations of more than one active ingredient are available.  For established populations, control will take a few years so treatment will need to be repeated.
CONTROL -- NON-CHEMICAL		
Technique	Timing	Method
<b>Biological</b>	Not recommended	Seed weevil ( <i>Gymnetron tetrum</i> ) - has not been successful in Jefferson County.
<b>Burning</b>	Not recommended	Fire encourages Common mullein to germinate
<b>Cultivation</b>	Spring – Fall Rosettes and young plants without flower heads	May need to be repeated throughout the season and on an annual basis until the seedbank is exhausted. May allow more seeds to germinate due to disturbance.
<b>Grazing</b>	Not recommended	Most animals will not feed on Common mullein
<b>Mowing</b>	Not recommended	Plants will re-grow and set seed.
<b>Prevention</b>	Anytime	Maintain the health of the site by encouraging healthy stands of grass.
<b>Removal</b>	Spring to Early Summer Rosette to Bolting	Remove rosettes and young plants before they are more than 12 inches tall (before flower buds form). Remove at least the top couple inches of the taproot.
	Summer Flowering	Remove flower heads, bag, and dispose of in the trash or landfill. Sever the root a least a couple inches below the soil. Plants without flower buds do not need to be put in the trash.
	Fall Rosette	Remove rosettes and at least the top couple inches of the taproot.
	Dead stalks – Not Recommended	Removing dead flower stalks from previous seasons may help from an esthetic perspective but does very little to control infestations because most seeds have already dropped from the plant. Removing rosettes instead is a better use of labor and resources.
	Pulling when plants are small results in less bulk and makes disposal easier. Pulling will disturb the soil so it may contribute to more of the seedbank germinating.	

Use all chemicals according to the manufacturer's label. The label will provide specific instructions including allowed sites, application methods, rates, storage, re-entry requirements and personal protective equipment. No specific recommendation or endorsement is made or implied by listing the above methods or products. 9/2021